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HONGKONG, SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1916.

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Subscribed Capital \$4,500,000.
Paid-up Capital 2,247,300
II—Fund Reserve 5,537,041
III—Life & Annuity Funds 17,567,330
Sinking Fund Account 128,230
233,970,367
Revenue Fire Branch 24,831,484
Life and Annuity Branches 2,141,583
Revenue Marine Department 337,234
Other Receipts 478,84
25,339,228
The Accumulative Funds of the various
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8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. Every 10 minutes.
10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Every 15 minutes.
11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
1.45 p.m. to 3.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
3.15 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
4.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
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11.30 a.m. to 12 Noon Every 15 minutes.
12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
1.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
3.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
4.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
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Hongkong, April 1, 1912. WONG PING WA, Manager

THE WAR. TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

THE BATTLE IN ITALY. BITTER FIGHTING CONTINUES.

LONDON, June 20.

An Italian official announcement
says—

The battle is continuing bitterly
and uninterruptedly from Montello
to the sea.

We drove back the enemy on the
evening of the 19th to northward of
the Monte Belluna railway, com-
pelling him to withdraw from the
whole front of attack somewhat to-
wards the north-eastern railway, re-
taining the position of Montello. We took 1,226 prisoners
and numerous machine-guns.

The struggle along the Piave
ductuates fiercely on the front line.
It is being waged by the enemy with
decision and hardness and is sus-
tained by our troops with great stub-
bornness and bravery. The enemy
on the afternoon of the 19th, attack-
ing with fresh and numerous troops,
and gained at the outset some ground
fronting Zenson, but our supports
arriving immediately forced him to
retire.

Our energetic partial counter-
attacks succeeded greatly in reduc-
ing the fighting in the sector west-
ward of Santa Dona where we took
518 prisoners.

The Czech-Slovak units have
valiantly given their first tribute of
blood for the principles of freedom
and independence for which they are
fighting on our side.

From dawn to sunset our and the
Allied aircraft and Italian aeroplanes
participated uninterruptedly and
effectively in the battle. Fourteen
enemy machines were brought down.
One Italian machine has not
returned.

The French units were success-
ful in a surprise operation on the
Asiago Plateau and carried positions
at Bertico and Pannar taking 101
prisoners. We completed these
gains by capturing Monte Costalunga
taking another hundred prisoners.
Enemy attacks on Monte Corno
were repulsed.

THE AUSTRIAN REPORT.

LONDON, June 20.

A wireless Austrian official report
states—

The battle of Venetia continues.
The enemy replied to the fall of
the bulk of the Piave front by vio-
lent counter-attacks carried out with
stubborn tenacity. Bitter fighting
occurred for our new positions on the
Fossetta Canal, on the Oderzo-Tre-
viso railway and on Montello. In
the Montello region the battle in-
creased to violence equalling the
great Cuno battles. The Italians at
certain points drove forward storm-
ing columns six times. Heavy losses
forced the enemy to employ reserves
without any system, throwing Divi-
sions and regiments into battle. All
his efforts were in vain.
General von Boroevic not only
completely maintained the captured
lines but with General Scharitzer's
Infantry Divisions drove back the
Italians towards the west to south-
ward of the Treviso railway.
To the south-east of Asiago the
Italians again stormed with the same
success as on the previous days.

"SITUATION QUITE SATIS- FACTORY."

LONDON, June 20.

The flooding of the Piave washed
away all bridges except four, but the
Austrians speedily constructed tem-
porary foot-bridges, and the river is
now subsiding. Apparently the
Italians are unable to take full
advantage of the awkward position
of the Austrians at present.

Out of 50 Divisions the Austrians
have so far engaged well over thirty.
The situation continues quite satis-
factory.

BRITISH WAR CABINET'S CONGRATULATIONS.

LONDON, June 20.

The Press Bureau announces that
Mr. Lloyd George has telegraphed
to Signor Orlando as follows:—

"The Imperial War Cabinet, repre-
sentative of all the peoples and
nations of the British Empire, desire
to congratulate the Italian Army on
the splendid defence they have made
in the great battle now in progress.
The War Cabinet has watched with
pride and admiration the unwavering
courage with which the brave sol-
diers of Italy, in company with the
French and British, have repelled
the offensive conducted with the
whole strength of the Austro-Hun-
garian Army. This great success
has been a deep source of encourage-
ment to the Allies. Coming at the
most fateful hour of the whole war
it is a good augury that the alliance
of free nations will ere long free the
world once and for all from the mili-
tary domination which has threatened
it so long."

IMMENSE EXCITEMENT IN AUSTRIA.

THE REDUCED BREAD RATION.

GERMAN PROMISES BROKEN.

AMSTERDAM, June 20.

A message from Vienna states
that the reduction of the bread ration
has caused immense excitement
throughout the Monarchy and the
sharpest of Press protests irrespec-
tive of party. Immediate German
and Hungarian help is demanded.
The executive of the German
Socialists in Austria has urgently
appealed to the workers to abstain
from excesses or interruption of work
pending decisions by the Vienna
Workers' Council.

A message from Basel says the
Vienna Workmen's Council is pro-
tecting against the reduction and
demands a general peace as soon as
possible.

The Vienna City Council has
issued a statement in reference to
the reduction of the bread ration. It
says that Germany promised some
weeks ago to supply the Austrian
Army and civilians with meal includ-
ing German stocks. Deliveries were
at first regular but for eight days
past Germany has been in arrears,
2,000 wagons of meal being un-
delivered. No meal has been dis-
tributed for a week in the munition
districts of Austria.

The situation is very acute at
Prague, Brunn, and Guboa. Ur-
gent telegrams have been sent to
General Ludendorff besides others
previously mentioned, and the Am-
bassador at Berlin has made repre-
sentations.
When the Burgomaster received
the unexpected notification of the
reduction of the bread ration, he
refused responsibility for order in
Vienna and requested at least pen-
and-peace. This was refused and
then he again telegraphed to Berlin
and Munich asking for potato.

(Continued on Page 5.)

INTIMATIONS

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RECORDS

(Take me back to U.S.A. (Billy Williams)
 6010 Why can't we have the Sea in London ..
 6011 I don't care ..
 6012 All the Silver from the Silvery Moon ..
 6013 Mister John Macenzie O'Connell ..
 6014 I come from Scotland ..
 6015 Jean loves all the Jockeys ..
 6016 All the Ladies Fell in Love with Sandy ..
 6017 Take me where there are no Eyes about ..
 6018 Let's all go Mad ..

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Packets of 10 & 20 Cigarettes
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MAGNUMS in air-tight
 tins of 50 Cigarettes

A SIBERIAN OFFICIAL.

"WOULD WELCOME INTERVENTION OF THE DEVIL."

An important personage is among the recent visitors in Shanghai, says the Shanghai Gazette. M. Ostrogow, formerly head of the Trans-Siberian Railway during the most strenuous period of the war and Under Secretary of State in the Ministry of Communications under Kerensky, has arrived with his family from Harbin for a short stay at the Astor House, his object being to accompany his family to Tsingtao, and then return to Harbin by way of Tientsin. M. Ostrogow, whose name is one of the best known in all Russia, was director of the Omakaya sector of the Trans-Siberian line when the first revolution broke out. Kerensky called him to Petrograd, where he was nominated Under Secretary of the Ministry of Communications. In July 1917, he was sent back to Siberia to take charge of the whole Siberian line from the Trans to Vladivostok. His mission was to speed up the transport of war supplies from the Pacific to the Front. That he was successful may be concluded from the fact that more than 40,000,000 pound (a pound equals 35 pounds) of war materials were transported under his leadership.

But the Bolsheviks came into power and M. Ostrogow had to flee like many others of the Kerensky Administration. He went to Harbin, where he met the American Railway corps and did his utmost to effect co-operation between the Russian railway men and the Americans. M. Ostrogow now belongs to the Board of Directors of the Chinese Eastern Railway and is working closely with General Horvath. Asked about conditions in Siberia and especially on the China-Siberian frontier, M. Ostrogow hesitated: "There are a lot of complications, not technically, but diplomatically," he said. "Intervention by the Allies is urgently required and the Russian people would certainly welcome an intervention if such would be made by all the Allies. A certain great nation across the Pacific is still hesitating to declare against the Bolsheviks, hoping still that the Bolsheviks would fight the Germans, but looking the facts in the face, such a stand is impossible."

GERMANS IN RED FORCE.
 "It might interest your readers to know how the Red Force, fighting against Semenov, really is constituted. Not half are Russians, but most are German and Austrian ex-prisoners. The Commander in Baron von Taube, a Russian subject but of German extraction, who was chief of staff of the Omak district in 1918. The forces opposing Semenov's small band are equipped splendidly and ably officered. It is remarkable that Semenov has had to retreat. There is a danger that the Red Force will penetrate China. Nearly a hundred thousand German ex-prisoners would be available. Whether these Germans are more Bolshevik than Imperial German is a question, but we are of the opinion that orders from Berlin or they might not, but the danger is surely there and intervention must come."

"What intervention is expected?" M. Ostrogow was asked. "Any intervention that will restore normal conditions in Siberia," he replied. "We would welcome the intervention of the devil himself, if he could bring about stable conditions. But we are of the opinion that even His Satanic Majesty could not improve on conditions there which, in a word, are simply devilish."

AMERICAN CABLES.

[U.S.A. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS TO MANILA.]

NEGROES IN THE U.S.A. ARMY.

WASHINGTON, June 7.

Provost-Marshal General Crowder has ordered the mobilization of 200,000 more soldiers this month. Forty thousand negroes have also been called, making the United States Army more than 2,000,000. The training camps are thus kept full despite the steady and rapid shipments of troops overseas.

"Whenever a bunk is empty we fill it immediately," said General Crowder. The men previously ordered into training together with the present call make the total mobilization for June thus far about 300,000 men. More calls are expected.

The training period has been shortened in order to utilize the increasing amounts of available shipping. The training of the men will be completed in France.

Reports by states indicate that 150,000 men of the 1918 class registered on Wednesday. An early call is expected for them.

NEW OIL BURNER SAVES FUEL.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 5.
 Local shipping men are interested in a new oil burner which saves nearly half the fuel over the best previous device. The Government is supervising the tests which are now being made.

Photographs of graves of British soldiers in France are only taken on request of the relatives. Over 97,000 of these requests have been received and complied with.

Prussian State railways in 1917 paid \$2,850,000 compensation for property lost or stolen in transit compared with \$200,000 in 1916. "No annexations indeed!"

LOSING WEIGHT BY THE POUND

"Under Weight," a condition of ill-health, shows your assimilative powers are decreasing.

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Supplies the blood with the wanted nourishing and healthy flesh building materials. Very palatable.

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RICHES OF BURMA.

GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS.

Under Government auspices the minerals of Burma—or, at last, those specially valuable for war purposes—are now being vigorously worked. After the war the development of these and of Burma's minerals generally will, the British Empire Producers' Organization understands, be still more vigorously undertaken. The country has, in fact, enormous mineral riches, but prospectors are badly wanted and large tracts of country are still unexplored. On the agricultural side, too, says the British Empire Producers' Organization, developments may be expected in Burma. An expert from the Federated Malay States has recently been examining the Tavoy area with regard to cinchona cultivation on a large scale. Cinchona, the source of quinine, is already being grown to some extent in Burma, but the present scheme is for the cultivation of 60,000 acres. Throughout the British East the lead obtained by the Dutch with their extensive cinchona plantations in Java will certainly be challenged in the future. The prolific bamboo forests are another asset, but partially exploited source of wealth in Burma, the great economic importance of which has certainly not been adequately recognized hitherto. For this lack of vision, says the *Financial*, the administration of Burma as a mere province of India instead of as itself an actual unit of Empire, is probably to a certain extent responsible.

Other times, other methods. The report of a Worcestershire parish was a witness in a case at the Birmingham Assizes. Having to wait some time, he took out his knitting needles, and before he was able to leave the court he had nearly completed a pair of socks for a soldier.

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Head Office: Kowloon, Telephone No. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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HORLICK'S MALTED MILK

Pure full-cream milk, enriched with choice malted barley & wheat, in powder form. Keeps indefinitely.



THE FOOD DRINK FOR ALL AGES.

A refreshing and sustaining beverage instantly ready by the addition of hot or cold water only. No cooking. Nourishing and convenient.

Of all Chemists and Stores.

HORLICK'S MALTED MILK CO., SLOUGH, BUCKS., ENG.

PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

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THE "CHINA MAIL" LTD.,

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COMMERCIAL FORMS

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THE HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LD.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "MANIFESTO" HONGKONG.

Codes Used: A1, A.E.O. Fifth Edition, Engineering First and Second Editions, Western Union, and Watten's.

Dock Owners Ship Builders, Marine and Land Engineers, Boiler Makers,

Iron and Brass Founders, Forge Masters, Electricians.

ACETYLENE CUTTING AND WELDING FOR SHIP AND BOILER REPAIR.

Modern up-to-date plant operated by our own specially-trained

workmen under expert European supervision.

All classes of light steel work manufactured by the above process.

Tanks, Drums, Ventilators, Pipes, &c., &c.

(THE DIMENSIONS OF DOCKS AND SHIPS ARE AS FOLLOWS)					
(NAME OF DOCK OR SHIP)	LENGTH (IN FEET)	ENTRANCE BREADTH (IN FEET)	DEPTH OVER BILGE (IN FEET)	RISE OF GUN (IN FEET)	RISE OF GUN (IN FEET)
NO. 1 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 2 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 3 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 4 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 5 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 6 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 7 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 8 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	10
NO. 9 DOCK, Kowloon	275	80	10	10	1



WATSON'S
OLD

BROWN BRANDY

25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

TELEPHONE 616.

To-day's Advertisements

WANTED.

SMALL FURNISHED HOUSE at Peak for months August and September. Write stating terms and particulars to Box No. 18. C/o "CHINA MAIL" Office. Hongkong, June 22, 1918. 512

TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

S. E. GREEN v. NG SZE KWONG.

AN ENDEAVOUR will be made to RE-PLAY this match on MONDAY, the 24th inst. at 4.30 p.m. Stand ticket holders should change their tickets at MOUTRIE'S LTD. Any tickets not taken up will be sold on the ground. P. M. HODGSON, Hon. Secretary. 22nd June, 1918. 543

FOR SALE.

STEAMER—Chinese. Flag—Steel built. Engines and boiler in good condition—Capable of carrying 900 passengers and 400 tons cargo. Speed eleven knots. Price \$300,000 A.K. currency, prompt delivery. Fuller particulars on application Address WING HING. C/o "CHINA MAIL" Office. Hongkong, June 22, 1918. 544

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

FROM EUROPE AND STRAITS.

THE Company's Steamship "NIPPON MARU," having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co.'s Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be opened out and marked and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed. Optional Goods will be carried on unless instructions are given to the contrary before Noon, To-day. Damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee and the Co.'s representatives at an appointed hour on TUESDAY and FRIDAY. All claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns. NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA, Agents. Hongkong, June 22, 1918. 541

(Continued on Page 8.)

KODAKS
and FILMS,
PLATES
and PAPER,
DEVELOPING & PRINTING
UNDERTAKEN.

A. TACK & CO.,
26, Des Voeux Road Central.

THE CALENDAR.

MEMO FOR TO-MORROW.
Prince of Wales born, 1894.

GENERAL MEMORANDA.

MONDAY, June 24.—Midsummer Day. 2.30 p.m.—Auction of Chinese Porcelain, etc. by Messrs. Hughes & Douglas.
THURSDAY, June 27.—Hongkong Stock Exchange Settlement Day.
FRIDAY, June 28.—12 noon—Indo-China Steam Navigation Co. meeting.
SUNDAY, July 1.—Eid-ul-Fitr.

THE DEPORTATION OF GERMANS.

It does not seem from the paragraphs appearing in Chinese papers on the subject that rapid progress is being made with arrangements for the deportation of Germans from China, but we have to take news on such a subject in the Northern Chinese papers *cum grano salis* for it is evidently often of German inspiration. The Tuchen in whose jurisdiction Shanghai is situated is represented as pleading with the Government to refuse the request for the deportation of the Germans. He seems to regret the deportation as something derogatory to the sovereignty of China, and he adds that "the Germans in Shanghai prefer death to deportation." All which is, of course, buncombe! Another paragraph represents the Premier as now being opposed to deportation. It says that at an interview which he gave to the British Minister a few days ago, the Premier said that "since an agreement had been arrived at between France and Germany by which no enemy subjects of either country would be deported, China would follow the example set and permit enemy subjects to remain in the country under present regulations." Well, may the reader exclaim: How do such things get into the papers! Even the readers of Chinese papers may be credited with a sufficient knowledge of affairs to know that this alleged agreement between France and Germany is too ludicrous to be believed.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

A Y.M.C.A. campaign has been started at Shanghai to raise \$250,000 for a new building.

There are now 3,000 members of the China and Japan War Savings Association whose headquarters are at Shanghai.

A French visitor to Nagasaki was arrested recently for taking photographs in the streets of the town and, after examination by the local court, was fined ¥ 30.

An endeavour is to be made to replay the tennis match between S. F. and Ng Sze Kwong on Monday. An advertisement on the subject will be found in another column.

A Chinese was arrested at the Kowloon Railway Station yesterday and ten tins of opium were found in his possession. He was taken before a Police Magistrate this morning and was fined \$40.

Germans are still reported to be doing the vanishing trick from Tientsin, says Shanghai contemporary. Dormmiller and Hack left some weeks ago and the latter is reported to have reached Berlin. The latest to disappear are Benting and Wulff.

The Germans are now being excluded from the Allied Concessions, Hankow, more completely than formerly, says the C. C. Post. Unless it is a matter of the first importance they cannot get a permit to enter. This is due to indignation over the bombing of the hospitals in France.

The murder of Mr. Graham, a British missionary, in Fokien, by pirates, was discussed by the Cabinet in Peking on Saturday last; it is reported and the Government decided to send special delegates to Foochow to make investigations. The Chinese Government offers adequate compensation to the relatives of Mr. Graham and promises to devise means to prevent a similar occurrence in future.

A party of experts and Navy men left for Taiwan (Formosa) on the 10th June to start the prospecting of oil-fields in the island colony. The Japanese Navy has discovered two promising fields there, and now the undertaking is being carried on with the assistance of the Nippon Oil Company.

SAFE, SURE, ALWAYS CURES.

Do not suffer from cramp, colic or pain in the stomach when Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy goes to the right spot and gives immediate relief. You cannot afford to be without it if you are subject to attacks of this kind. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

Mr. M. M. S. Gubley, a.s., Controller of Currency in India, has been awarded a C.S.I.

Archdeacon King, who for more than thirty years has been identified with St. Andrew's Mission, Tokyo, died on the 5th inst. after a very long illness. The Archdeacon was 82 years of age.

Mr. W. H. Lewis, former Editor of the *Manila Times*, and a journalist widely known throughout the Far East, is now in France, attached as a captain to General Pershing's staff. He is assistant to Mr. Martin Egan, his predecessor in the editorial chair of the *Manila Times*, who has been appointed major on the staff of the American commandant. Captain Lewis is a Briton by birth and speaks French fluently.

Mr. J. Bribosia, Belgian Consul-General at Seoul (formerly stationed in Hongkong), has been named as the successor of the former Consul-General at Yokohama, Mr. C. Bastin. He will not, however, assume charge of the Yokohama Belgian Consulate-General for some time.

Mr. J. H. Stewart, for many years an active and popular member of the Marine Engineers Institute at Shanghai, was made the recipient of a present of a case of pipes from his fellow members as a token of their esteem, last week, on his leaving Shanghai for Hongkong. Mr. W. T. Bissett, in making the presentation, said that they were gathered to bid farewell to a greatly esteemed friend and member. He was glad to know that Mr. Stewart was going to Hongkong to take up an important position. Mr. Stewart had for many years been a valued member of the Institute, had served for many years on the Committee and as Librarian. Mr. Stewart gracefully responded and was toasted with musical honours. Mr. W. S. Campbell and Mr. B. Auderton also made brief but most complimentary addresses.

THE YUAMATI MURDER CASE.

DEFENDANTS ACQUITTED.

Three Chinese were charged on remand before Mr. J. R. Wood at the Magistrate's this morning, with the murder of two Sampan girls at Yuamati harbour recently.

Inspector Gordon said the Police had investigated the matter thoroughly and had come to the conclusion that the whole affair was the outcome of an accident. They therefore wished to withdraw the charge. With reference to the second charge of robbery, the evidence they had was not sufficient for them to proceed with the case. His Worship discharged the defendants.

HONGKONG CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, 1918.

The scores recorded during the past week are as follows:

Sequelae won against Pollock.
To U Lau " Chan Kwai
To U Lau " Ho Ling Kun

The scores up to date are as follows:

Carvalho	6
Chan Kwan Chiu	1
Ho Ling Kun	2
Pollock	4
Ray	6
Sequelae	8
Smith	0
Stevens	14
To U Lau	5
Un Kwai Tong	21

The remaining results must be reported by Thursday the 27th June at the latest. Any game not reported by that date will be marked as a loss to both players.

Competitors who have not yet paid their entrance fees are requested to do so at once.

SILVER WEDDING FUND.

7TH LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.

Mrs. Ho Fook (2nd donation), Mrs. Litt, Mr. Evan Jones, Mrs. Ager, Mrs. Manafeld, Mrs. Moses, Mrs. Digby, Mrs. Goodman, Mrs. G. P. Curry, Mrs. Stubblings, Miss Eileen Stubblings, Mrs. J. Morris. Total \$430.34.
Last list \$5,798.50
7th list \$430.34
Total \$6,228.84

The list is now closed.

There is too much heat in Western Australia, where it is a problem what to do with the surplus.

Severe penalties are threatened in Germany against persons spreading alarmist rumors about losses in the Army. Letters from the front are suppressed indignantly.

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

Re LEUNG KAI SANG.

In the Bankruptcy Court this morning Sir William Rees Davies, K.C., Chief Justice, heard a petition by Leung Kai Sang trading as Hop Fat.

Mr. G. R. Hayward, appeared for the debtor and asked for a receiving order stating that the assets amounted to \$20,000 and consisted of \$4,900 in Court, \$15,000 good book debts and \$500 in his (Mr. Hayward's) hands. The liabilities were about \$45,900. The petitioner was arrested as an absconding debtor and he put up the amount stated (\$4,900) and his Petition was filed before the money was taken out.

The Official Receiver, Mr. H. A. Nibbs, objected to the granting of the order and asked to see the debtor and that Mr. A. H. Crew, as *Amicus Curiae*, being conversant with the facts be allowed to question the debtor.

Mr. Crew said that the sum of \$4,900 which was in Court was money put up to secure the debtor. But for the judgment which the creditor he represented had secured, his Lordship would never have heard the petition. The money in Court was responsible for the bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. Crew said he represented the only creditor in Hongkong; the other creditors were in Canton.

Mr. Hayward disputed this.

Mr. Crew said he was informed that what he said was a fact.

In reply to His Lordship, Mr. Crew said he represented a judgment creditor who had received a judgment, with security for costs, amounting to about \$5,000.

The Debtor stated that he was sole partner in the Hop Fat firm at Fatsan and had carried on business for over ten years. He had done business in Hongkong last year at a shop at West Point, which had since been sold. A fire had occurred in his premises at Fatsan and subsequently he came down to Hongkong to collect the insurance money. Debtor admitted that at that time he was owing the Lai Cheung Wing Hop Kee the sum of \$4,700 and that they were pressing for payment. Debtor also admitted that he received a sum of about \$16,000 on May 1 and that he told the Court bailiff when he called that \$8,000 of the money had been sent to Canton. Also that he made an offer to Mr. Crew's client of 70% in settlement. He said he had liabilities in Canton and could only pay 70%. On the bailiff threatening to arrest him, he produced \$4,900, the amount fixed by the Court, including security for costs, and paid it over to the bailiff.

Mr. Crew: That left you with about \$11,000 which you had either remitted to Canton or had in Hongkong—I did send \$8,000 to Canton and took \$2,000 up myself. Debtor further admitted that all his creditors, except the Tai Cheung Wing Hop Kee were in Fatsan, and that he told the bailiff and Tai Cheung Wing's Manager that his liabilities in Fatsan would exclude their debt here and that he owed \$40,000 in Fatsan.

Mr. Crew: And now you say that your liabilities are about \$45,000 including the \$5,000 due to the Tai Cheung Wing? They are more. The 40,000 are tins, not dollars.
Mr. Crew: So that your debts now are the same as when you told the bailiff?—Yes.

Then what have you done with the \$11,000 you sent from here to Canton?—When I returned to Fatsan all my creditors knew I had collected insurance money. They held a meeting and I had to pay out 30 per cent.

Then why have not your liabilities been reduced?—Because I gave them in tins, previously, and now they are given in dollars. The amount I distributed would not go round at 30 per cent and my creditors pressed me and I had to come down to Hongkong and seek the protection of the Bankruptcy Court so that the Canton creditors would have to come to Hongkong to collect the money.

After further questions by Mr. Crew, Mr. Hayward protested, stating that the questions should be put at the public examination.
His Lordship: The procedure is certainly novel.
Mr. Crew said he could produce authorities to show that the Court could decline to make an order which was an abuse of the Court.

After further discussion, His Lordship adjourned for consideration of the point raised.

Fourteen other small cases were dealt with.

The total output of the Italian Mining Administration's mines for the week ending 8th June, amounted to 63,048 tons and the sales during the period to 47,717 tons.

Forty thousand men and officers have been armed out at American Great Lakes naval training station and the United States entered the war.

HONGKONG CIVIL SERVANTS.

A REPLY TO CRITICISM.

An interesting article on Conscription in Hongkong has made its appearance in *The Singapore Free Press* of Friday, June 14th. With certain parts of the article one finds oneself in agreement but the writer gets very wide of the mark when he deals with the Hongkong Civil Service and its relation to the Conscription Bill. To quote from the article:—

"The Hongkong Bill is a simple one. It provides that the question of the Civil Service should not be before the general tribunal but before the Governor. The last provision is one which all non-Government people will regard with a grim amusement, as something naturally to be expected, for we have become quite used by now to Governments laying down the rule that no ordinary person is capable of estimating the value of a civil servant's services to Government, although Government officials are held to be able to judge the value of business men's services. Probably it will be accounted heresy to say so, but in reality we do not believe that the Colony would suffer any more if, let us say, the Education Department, was closed down for a couple of years, than it would if certain branches of not absolutely war trades were similarly closed. We take the Education Department as an example, because as far as we know, it has the fewest, if any, employees, in it who would be liable under the Service Act, but it would be possible to discover other Departments. As however, the fetish of the indispensability of a Government department making an ordinary class of business occupation will not be dislodged by any such attacks, as are likely here or anywhere else the public will accept the regulation regarding the special procedure in the case of the Hongkong civil servants with that cynicism which it must cause."

Apparently the writer of this article is adopting the attitude, which so many people out East seem to adopt, of being up against the Government. They seem to take a delight in it; they seem to regard it as their special enemy and are ready at all times to pick out its bad points—the good they hurriedly pass by. It is an attitude which seems to thrive in the Far East, and often its greatest devotee is unable to give any definite reason as to why he is against the Government. And such people, including the writer in *The Singapore Free Press*, think what a splendid opportunity has come to them now that in the matter of Conscription H. E. The Governor of Hongkong should seek to control the civil service. And why not? Himself a civil servant, a man who for over thirty years has given himself freely in the interests of the Colony, who knows its requirements from A to Z and at the present time sees the fruits of his labours on every hand, who is there better to know what the requirements of this Colony are?

The article mentioned above is also unfair, inasmuch as it gives the impression that on the part of the Hongkong Civil Service there has been little in the way of sacrifice so far as its members go. But, since the outbreak of war there has been, as statistics prove, relatively as much eagerness on the part of members of the Educational Staff of the Colony as of any other section of the community to volunteer for military service, and it is only a few weeks ago that the remaining ones again sought to proceed to the front. Of these some were accepted and will soon be sharing the dangers of war with those of their colleagues who went before. The remaining ones are here in most cases on medical grounds.

It was a big mistake to single out the Education Department, though, as the writer said, it has the fewest, if any, employees who would be liable under the Service Act. To my mind, it would be absolutely against the interests of the Colony to close the schools. The writer must remember that the results of the work now being done in the Hongkong Schools and Colleges, though they may not be seen in one or two years, will be seen at a later period. Take away at the present time four English-educated Chinese from Hongkong and see the position your business firms will find themselves in. Such men, I need only quote one, but there are many others like him, as Sir Robert Ho Tung is a valuable asset to the Colony, and he was educated in a Hongkong school. All your past and present Chinese members of the Hongkong Legislative Council were educated in Hongkong schools; the compradors of the leading banks and firms in Hongkong were educated here. Suppose in their days the schools had been closed! And so at the present time among the boys at present studying here, who will deny that we have our future compradors, business men, members of the Legislative Council and others? How ever much men may try to close their eyes to the fact, Hongkong and the business life of Hongkong owe much to the Chinese, and the present education of Chinese in the Colony is a National investment, the interests of which will be repaid a hundredfold in the days which are to come. A thing is judged by its results. It justifies its existence by them, and the education of Chinese, even in the fourth year of war, is fully justified. There too many of the boys educated locally in whom the principles of truth, justice, and liberty have been deeply engraved; principles dear to every Briton, on the completion of their studies scatter to the four corners of the earth. In some instances they have gone

to the most obscure corners of the world and they have there shown themselves worthy exponents of the principles for the preservation of which our Empire at the present time is shedding her blood.

Our policy, even in time of War and of national crisis, must not be short-sighted. There is the question of Great Britain and China, a question which will assume great proportions when the war is over. Throughout the 75 years of its history as a Colony, Hongkong has aided, powerfully, in the uplift and progress of China. This fact can be attested by a visit to any place in China where foreign influences have been at work, e.g. Canton, Shanghai and Hankow. There remains for Hongkong a task and privilege of far-reaching moment and significance. It can be the pioneer in applying the new education and training which the youth of China are receiving under the British flag, more sympathetically, intelligently, resourcefully, penetratingly, and permanently to the purposes for which the education is designed, and, by so doing, advance the interests not of China alone but also of Britain. One of the chief after-war problems will be our commercial relations with China. Difficulties will have to be encountered. The solution of the problem will be found in mutual sympathy. In the present war China is playing a part; she is an Ally, and an Ally we shall hope to find her in the days of peace. There is a way for British interests in China and this way will be largely through Hongkong. It is here that many of the results of the present education of Chinese will be seen. There will be competition, of course, but of that we are not afraid. Great Britain's place and China's place in the New world of the East can be best found and kept by an inward kinship and comradeship which the new education is bringing within the sphere of the practicable and where Hongkong may well figure as a leading pioneer.

In conclusion it is hardly necessary to add a few words in defence of these civil servants who are members of that Education Department mentioned in the pages of *The Singapore Free Press*. To them there is a double satisfaction—to the call they responded, and the fault is not theirs if they were not taken, and they have the knowledge that they are working not for mere financial gain—a business man's salary, I think is considerably higher than the educationalist's—but they are working, paving the way, for the progress of British interests in that land which lies so near at hand.

THE WITNESS.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Messrs. Moxon and Taylor's weekly share report, dated 21st June, states:—There is a noted improvement to be recorded in our market this week, the volume of business having increased considerably, with most of our leading counters in strong demand. Shanghai continued to wrestle with its June account and the position there is much better, rates being for the most part on a higher level than last week. Banks—Hongkong Banks have again been the medium of a fair business at \$855.

INSURANCE—China Fires at \$132 and Hongkong Fires at \$135 are unchanged from last week.

Shipping—Doughries are in strong demand at \$67½ and Star-Ferries are still required for at \$23 with no business to report. Steamboats have varied between \$19½ and \$21, closing at \$20 sellers. Deferred Indos are wanted at \$13 and deferred Indos have changed hands at rates ranging between \$13 and \$14, closing in demand at \$13½. Shells have buyers at 27½ in London can the dividend of 8½ payable on the 6th prox.

REMARKS—China Sugars are wanted at \$23 and Malabar at \$20.

ONIA AND MINING—Rams continue to offer at \$1½, Urals at \$1½ and Tronohs at \$1½. Kailans have advanced to a buying rate of 44½ and Langkat market time at \$13½.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS—Kowloon Wharves have again advanced and \$68 for cash is freely offered. Docks have advanced to a buying rate of \$123½. Shanghai Docks after business at \$110 have advanced to a buying rate of \$112 with \$11½ done for September.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS—Centrals have changed hands at \$90. Hotels are wanted at \$90 and Lands have been dealt in at \$94½. There have been transactions in Bumi property at \$67½.

CORRO MINES—The following are Shanghai's latest quotations:—Eros \$15, 170, buyers; Shanghai Cottons \$13.125, buyers; Kung Yik \$14.14, buyers; Yangtzepeas \$14.34, buyers; Oriental \$14.16, buyers.

ELECTRIC COMPANIES—Hongkong Electric have changed hands at \$16 and Trans at \$6.40, China Lights are wanted at \$4.

MILLANLUM—China Borneo at \$84 and Dairy Farms at \$23 are unchanged from last week. Ropes have changed hands at \$21½ and \$27. Providers are wanted at \$7.40 and Cements have been done at \$6.90 buyers now offering \$6.85. Powells are in strong demand at \$71 and Waterboats are unaltered at \$11.

EXCHANGE—The demand rate on London is 3½ and the T.T. selling rate on Shanghai is \$1.08.

South Africa has borrowed over \$12,000,000 from the Imperial Government of which \$2,500,000 has been temporarily repaid, but is available for withdrawal.

ECONOMY IN THE END.

T.T. costs but a small amount to keep Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy always in your medicine chest, and it is economy in the end. It is always "cures" and "cures" quickly. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

THE WESTERN FRONT.

BRITISH RAIDS.

LONDON, June 20. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—
We carried out a number of raids in the neighbourhoods of Boyelles, Lens and Givenchy, also in the St. Riquier and Ypres sectors. Some led to sharp fighting in which the enemy had many casualties. We took 18 prisoners.

Our artillery and rifle fire dispersed raiders in the neighbourhood of Morlaixcourt.

Hostile artillery is active between the Somme and the Aisne.

There is considerable reciprocal artillery activity northward of Albert and on the La Bassée canal sector.

LONDON, June 20. Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—

The French carried out two successful raids on the night of the 19th inst. in the neighbourhood of Tournai taking several prisoners.

The British took a few prisoners to the northeast of Metz.

We advanced our line slightly this morning north-westward of Morris, taking a few prisoners. We beat off two counter-attacks on our new positions.

There has been no active hostile gun-shelling during the day in the vicinity of Arras.

RAIDS BY THE FRENCH.

LONDON, June 20.

A French communiqué states:—
Detachments penetrated the enemy lines between Montdidier and the Oise and in the region of Bois-le-Château and brought back twenty prisoners.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, June 20.

A wireless German official report says:—
Enemy activity increased on the evening of the 19th on almost the whole of Prince Rupprecht's front. We repulsed strong infantry advances in numerous sectors.

We penetrated deeply the American positions between Meuse and Mosel.

LONDON, June 21.

A wireless German official report says:—

Enemy partial attacks northward of Albert, to the south-west of Noyon, and to the north-west of Chateau Thierry failed heavily.

"WELL IMPRESSED."

LONDON, June 20.

After hearing a statement by M. Clemenceau, the members of the Army Committee of the Chamber stated that they were well impressed, especially by the number of American troops in France which exceeded all expectations and would soon give the Allies an equality of effectives.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

AUSTRIAN TROOPS FOR WESTERN FRONT REFUSED.

PARIS, June 20.

The Echo de Paris states that, according to trustworthy information, Field-Marshal von Hindenburg three months ago demanded three Austrian Divisions for the Western Front, but the demand was refused on the ground that the Austrian public would not permit the despatch of Austrians thither, but an offensive against Italy was promised to which the German High Command agreed.

BRITISH SQUADRON ATTACKED BY SEAPLANES.

HIT, BUT ENEMY LOSES ONE SEAPLANE.

LONDON, June 20.

An Admiralty communiqué states:—
A British squadron reconnoitring north of Heligoland Bight on the morning of the 19th inst. was attacked by seaplanes. They made no hits. One seaplane was brought down and destroyed by gun fire.

PALESTINE CAMPAIGN.

CAVALRY AND AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS.

LONDON, June 20.

An official report from Palestine states:—
Cavalry reconnoitring on the 17th inst. to the east of the Jordan killed a number of the enemy.

Imperial and Australian air-squadrons carried out an extensive bombing raid at El Kutra railway station on the Hedjaz railway on the morning of the 16th inst. Direct hits were obtained on a troop train full of troops and enemy shelters and station buildings were set on fire.

A similar raid was carried out on Amman station on the 18th inst.

THE ALLIES AND GERMANY AFTER THE WAR.

LONDON, June 20.

Mr. Croft, in the House of Commons, asked: Have the Allies agreed to exclude German ships and German goods from Allied ports and territories for progressive periods after the war the longer the Central Powers refuse to accept the Allied peace terms? Also similarly and progressively to restrict the export of raw materials to Germany?

Mr. Bonar Law replied that the Government was constantly communicating with the Allies, including the United States, on this subject. The question was very complicated. Even if anything had been decided, which was not the case, it would be impossible to make a statement.

BRITISH MOSLEMS.

THEIR WAR SERVICES GRATEFULLY RECOGNISED.

LONDON, June 20.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Government gratefully recognised the conspicuous war services rendered by our Moslem fellow subjects.

PEERAGE FOR SIR WILLIAM WEIR.

LONDON, June 20.

The Minister of the Air Force, Sir William Weir, has been elevated to the Peerage.

THE LIMBURG RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

AMSTERDAM, June 20.

A Dutch semi-official statement declares that only a maximum of 24 German trains daily run over the Limburg railways. These trains are thoroughly examined by the Dutch Customs and Military officials before being allowed to proceed.

ALIENS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON, June 20.

The papers state that owing to recent complaint Mr. Lloyd George has decided to overhaul the whole question of aliens in Great Britain.

THE DEPORTEES FROM IRELAND.

LONDON, June 20.

In the House of Commons, the Irish Secretary, replying to Mr. O'Donnell, said there was sufficient evidence to enable prosecution of the Irish deportees; but it was not considered necessary or desirable to prosecute.

RECRUITING IN IRELAND.

LONDON, June 20.

At Dublin Sir John Sullivan, one of the signatories to the anti-conscription pledge, has joined the Committee promoting voluntary recruiting in Ireland.

Interviewed, he said it would be a relief to decent Irishmen to find an honest and straightforward course opened to them. He was against conscription but he was also in favour of the war, like all real Nationalists. He believed the Catholic bishops would resent any bullying of the Irish people to prevent recruiting.

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EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

SHIPPING AFTER THE WAR.

The following is a continuation of Reuter's Summary of the Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider the position of shipping and shipbuilding industries after the war:—

SURRENDER OF ENEMY SHIPPING DEMANDED.

The enemy countries should be required as a condition of peace to surrender to the Allies all their merchant shipping, whether in enemy or neutral ports, at the close of hostilities; to forfeit all ships laid up since the outbreak of hostilities in ports of countries that have become involved in the war or have broken off diplomatic relations with them and to restore to the Allies all Allied shipping that may have come into their possession since the outbreak of hostilities. The shipping thus taken over from the enemy should be utilised as far as possible to assist in the demobilisation and to release for trade a proportion of Allied shipping absorbed in transport work. When demobilisation is completed all unused enemy vessels should be sold at auction in the various countries, the proceeds being treated as part of the common war indemnity to be paid by our enemies. Provided such an arrangement is possible, we think that a scheme of distribution which would secure an allocation of enemy tonnage among the Allies in some rough proportion to the losses sustained by individual Allied countries would offer many advantages, otherwise enemy vessels should be sold at auction in the various countries to the highest bidder of Allied nationality acting on behalf of Allied interests. A condition of sale should prevent retransfer of the vessels to enemy interests for such period as restrictions may be imposed on the enemy's shipping trade generally.

The Shipping Committee declares it is essential at the conclusion of peace that we be prepared to complete annually not less than two million tons net of merchant shipping, makes recommendations on the subject, declares that Government control of construction should cease immediately after the war and urges that even during the war, facilities be afforded to builders to construct liner tonnage to owners' own designs with such limitations as are necessary to ensure a rapid output of large carrying capacity.

The Committee recommends that it will be desirable after the war to relax considerably the present licensing system as regards transfer of vessels to enemy flags.

The report says that special restrictions on building for the Germans or transfers to the German flag would be useless unless all the Allies, including the United States, act similarly and are prepared to exert pressure on neutrals in the matter.

If the Allies decide to take such measures during the early reconstruction period, the building of ships in the Empire for enemy owners and transfers to enemy flags should be prohibited for such time as these measures are enforced. The same results as far as this country is concerned could be largely attained by British shipbuilders and shipowners themselves in giving preference to all flags over enemy flags both as respecting building and transfers.

As regards Conference agreements the report comments upon the too common evasion and subterfuge on the part of the Germans, who observed agreements only as far as it paid them to do so, but concludes that it would be inexpedient to prohibit Conference arrangements.

It says that German shipping was the spear head of German aggression. It was used to further German aims especially in the Near and Middle East, Equatorial Africa, South and Central America and in the Far East.

As regards coasting and inter-Imperial trades the Committee recommends the strict application to foreign ships calling at British ports of all safety and health requirements imposed on British shipping. It says the restriction of employment of foreign seamen on British ships is undesirable, but the master should be natural-born Britisher. The Committee doubts the expediency of the general exclusion of foreign flags from coasting and inter-Imperial trades and does not support the Dominions' Royal Commission recommendations of subsidised mail services and mail subsidies being subject to certain freight conditions.

AFFAIRS IN SIBERIA.

JAPANESE INTERVENTION?

LONDON, June 20.

The Times Correspondent at Tokio, says:—
There was a heavy fall on the Stock Exchange on a rumour that a special session of the Diet had been summoned to determine that Japan should take all steps to counter the German efforts.

BOLSHIEVIST GOVERNMENT OVERTHROWN.

LONDON, June 20.

The Times Correspondent at Stockholm says:—
The Bolshevik Government of Western Siberia has been overthrown by a counter-revolution which captured Tomsk. It was aided by Czech-Slovak fighting is proceeding at Omsk, Khatanga and Ufa. Soviet leaders have been telegraphed to M. Lenin that the Soviet rule of the whole of Siberia is threatened. The Siberian Duma has assumed Government and promised to supply Russia with bread if the Soviet abandons military measures against Siberia.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

THE ATTACK ON RHEIMS.

LONDON, June 20.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, writing yesterday, says:—
The German made their long-expected effort against Rheims last night, with a view to buckling the loop already drawn round two-thirds of the city and completing its capture. An attack was delivered on a front of 12 to 13 miles from Vignay at the foot of the hills bounding the plain west of the town to Pampelle Fort on the east. The Germans were already in the suburbs north-west and north, between St. Brice and Batheny.

In addition to defeating the main attacks, the French had the best of the fighting in the outlying houses of the city, the Germans blundering in the dark against cleverly masked defences in the ruins. The Germans had been sniffling round the city for the past fortnight in the hope of capturing it without a frontal attack and probably decided to attack at night, realising the reception awaiting them in the streets at day-time.

APPALLING GERMAN LOSSES IN THE ATTACK ON RHEIMS.

PARIS, June 20.

The attack on Rheims was a heavy and complete defeat of the enemy who sought on surprising the French. A veritable deluge of gas shells preceded the attack but the line nowhere gave way. The German losses were appalling.

"La Liberté," commenting on the affair, says it shows that the enemy will never be able to break through when French reserves are available; and that the strategy of Generalissimo Foch is beginning to bear fruit.

It says, however, regarding the abortive attempt against Rheims as a big local operation and thinks it may be a wily move on the part of the enemy to precede his big operations by local actions on a more or less extended scale on another part of the line than that chosen for the main operation.

THE ITALIAN FRONT.

THE CZECHO-SLOVAKS FIGHTING WITH ITALY.

LONDON, June 20.

Correspondents on the Italian front state that numbers of Bohemians who surrendered explained their action by producing proclamations dropped by Italian airmen advising that Italy has adopted the cause of the Czech-Slovaks as a nation, and is inviting them to rally to the national cause.

FOOD CRISIS IN AUSTRIA.

SUPPLIES EXHAUSTED.

AMSTERDAM, June 20.

Telegrams from Vienna and Berlin show that the Austrian food crisis is reaching a climax. Count Ludwig Paul, the Austrian Food Minister, interviewed on the subject of the reduction of the bread ration, said that only the most deplorable circumstances compelled such a drastic measure. Home and Rumanian supplies were exhausted, Besarabia was inaccessible and requisitions from Hungary were unfortunately without result. He hoped further reductions would be avoidable and that the population would endure till the new harvest.

Meetings of the Vienna City Council and Labour Council protested against the reduction most vigorously. The latter renewed their demand for a speedy general peace and the former demanded that the Government should negotiate afresh with Hungary and Germany, especially the latter, with a view to securing at least potatoes, and telegraphed to the Hungarian Food Minister, the Bavarian Premier and also the German Government requesting old potatoes.

Premier Seidler told a Socialist Deputation that everything imaginable had been done to avoid the reduction of the bread ration. Austria's stocks of food were exhausted and she was dependent on imports from Ukraine and Besarabia, but deliveries were interrupted. He hoped Germany would furnish consignments of food in accordance with the agreements made last May. Premier Seidler promised to expedite the harvest most speedily.

GERMANY REFUSED TO SUPPLY FOOD.

A semi-official Berlin agency appends to the report of Premier Seidler's statement a note that the supply of bread and grain from Germany is out of the question.

A decree was issued in Vienna yesterday instituting Government control of the new harvest similar to that in Germany and Hungary. It is explained that this is necessary because Austria is entering upon a new harvest year without any stocks whatever and must obtain grain in the speediest manner.

The Berlin Echo says:—
Count Ludwig Paul has arrived in Berlin and conferred with the War Food Department and adds that it is declared authoritatively that Germany never promised to supply grain to Austria from her own stocks. Germany herself has been compelled to reduce the bread ration. The promise to supply Ukraine grain is admitted, but Germany is not responsible for the difficulties regarding the supply.

BULGARIAN CRISIS.

AMSTERDAM, June 20.

The German papers are uneasy over the situation in Bulgaria and say the change of Ministry is regrettable especially as M. Malinoff is Russophile. They declare the crisis is due to dissatisfaction with the Bukarest peace.

MAN-POWER QUESTION.

THE "INDISPENSABLE" MAN.

A SINGAPORE VIEW.

The Straits Times, in the course of a leading article on man-power, says:—

Let us, then, get a clear grip of the facts. The exemption of the dominions is for convenience, not for any reason under which residents in the dominions can claim to be exempt from the obligations imposed on people in the home-land. And any exemption that may be granted by a tribunal either at home or here can only be made legitimately on evidence that the applicant is engaged on some work which is of public importance in the sense of contributing to general national efficiency. It is not enough to say "I am conducting a business which makes a huge profit, and of that profit the State takes a large part by way of taxation, and money is necessary for prosecuting the war." We have got past the stage at which these considerations are sufficient. The man who is organising shipping services may be essential. The man who is producing or distributing food may be essential. The man who is making anything required by the Navy or the Army may be essential. The man who is engaged in governing a part of the Empire—it may be only a small district—may also be essential. What is not essential is the purely private trader.

All that he is doing, for example, here, or in such a colony as Hongkong, might be done by Chinese. The withdrawal of all the private traders would not produce chaos and famine. We state the extreme view for emphasis. Actually there is very great interest in preserving as far as possible the existing business relations, but before a man of military age and fitness is excused on the ground that he is "indispensable" it must be shown that there is no possibility of carrying on a valuable work which conduces to public interest and security without him. Take any one of our big European houses here. There is a chief and say a dozen European assistants, and behind these there is a very able and energetic Asiatic staff. Suppose nine of the Europeans are taken away, would the chief go to bed and give up the struggle? Certainly not. As a man of grit and capacity he would set his able and experienced Asiatic staff to work, and, though there would be more labour and anxiety for himself, he would be able to turn over as much business as before. Matters might not go so smoothly or as accurately in some minor details, but for Europeans could be quite easily dispensed with no firm would bear the heavy burden of employing them. But the business would not stop. The Asiatics, trained in many cases by long service in the firm, are far better "second strings" than the head of a business say in London, Glasgow, or Manchester can fall back upon when his trained men are taken from him to fight. He has to be content with women and girls or "crooks" unfit for the Army, who have never been inside his or any similar warehouse. That is the situation as we should view it, and deal with it. The conditions are not normal, and any man who fails to make abnormal efforts is not doing what his country has a right to expect of him. He is not even doing what the simple law of self-preservation dictates.

The Singapore Free Press has the following leading article on the subject:—
Now that Hongkong has disposed of the bogey which was used by many who wished to excuse Government inaction here as regards compulsory service outside the Colony, that is to say, the bogey of Government inability constitutionally to impose universal external service, we may reasonably expect to see at an early date a similar Ordinance brought in for the Straits Settlements. There is, however, one very material difference in the situation of the two Colonies. In Hongkong the motive power came from the Chamber of Commerce which represented the need for powers to compel for external service; here, as far as we know and without wishing to do the local merchants any injustice, we believe the Chamber has not moved in a similar way. We do not, however, pay too much attention to that because we have always felt that this is a matter which in reality does more than it concerns his employer. It is the individual who for the past two or three years has been subjected to the sarcasm, innuendo and innuendo of countless anonymous correspondents and other persons who, because there are undoubtedly a few here who have shirked, as there are everywhere, branded a whole class without particularisation. Nor has this been confined to the comment of the man in the street, for we have always regarded, His Excellency, the High Commissioner's speech at Kuala Lumpur as unintentionally tending very much the same way, in that by its failure to make more than a general distinction it was reasonably interpreted to mean that there were very large numbers here who had intentionally avoided their duty. All this, it is felt, has in no way tended to produce unity of opinion and a high conception of the Empire's needs, will disappear if a Bill is introduced which will throw upon the employer the onus of keeping his employees back from their duty if they are able to go, and we shall be much surprised if the proportion of appeals against service from employees comes to anything but a very small figure indeed. The Hongkong Bill is a simple one. It makes the age limit 18 to 41, it provides a tribunal to consider exemption claims and it arranges for the necessary appeal. It does not appear to make any provision for substance allowances, but there was a verbal assurance that this matter would be considered sympathetically, and it provides that the question of the civil service should not come before the Governor. The last provision is one which all non-Government people will regard with a grim amusement as something naturally to be expected, for we have become quite used by now to Governments laying down the rules, that no ordinary person is capable of estimating the value of a civil servant's service to

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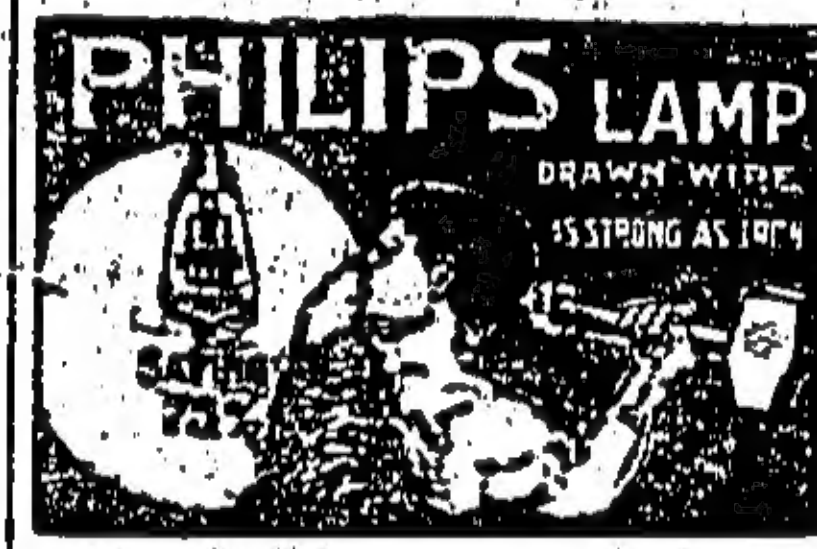
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Government, although Government officials are held to be able to judge the value of business men to commerce. Probably it will be accounted hereby to say so, but in reality we do not believe that the Colony would suffer any more if, let us say the Education Department, was closed down for a couple of years, than it would if certain branches of not absolutely war trades were similarly closed. We take the Education Department as an example because as far as we know it has the fewest, if any, employees in it who would be liable under the Service Act, but it would be possible to discover other Departments. As however the fetish of the indispensability of a Government Department is a very common class of business occupation will not be disclosed by such attacks as are likely here or anywhere else the public will accept the regulation regarding the special procedure in the case of the Hongkong civil servant with that cynicism which it must cause.

We should not be particularly concerned over the question of the tribunals, assuming the Bill introduced here should be similar in terms to the Hongkong one, because although the previous tribunals were not a very great success the conditions under which they worked were entirely different from the conditions under which these tribunals will work. It is the duty in Hongkong of the proper authority to send before the tribunal the names of all those affected by the Bill. The tribunal then has to call up and examine these persons and either grant exemption or not. If the employer or employee objects to the calling up an appeal lies to the Governor in Council. Similarly, it is open to the proper military authority to appeal against exemptions and it is because of this we should not fear a repetition of the former comparative failure of the tribunals, because it would be the duty of the proper military authority, when power of compelling service had been put into legal shape, to appeal against any exemption which he did not think justified. From what we read of the appeals in the I.D.F. courts in India the tribunals although composed largely of commercial men were not by any means free in granting exemptions. The main point about such a Bill as this if it is brought in here is that we shall at last be able to rest assured we are doing all we can and a number of men whose difficulties have been perfectly honest, will have the way made clear for them, whilst if there is a residuum of slackers that residuum will also be wiped up. We have urged legislation on these lines for the past three years, and we can only repeat we shall be unfeignedly thankful, as will be also the individuals concerned, if it is brought in at last although almost at the eleventh hour.

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WEDNESDAY, June 26th.—
8.30 p.m. Band Practice.
THURSDAY, June 27th.—
11.15 p.m. Recruit Drill.
SATURDAY, June 29th.—
2.30 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.
2.30 p.m. Band Practice.
NO. 4 V.A.D.
TUESDAY, June 25th.—
1.30 p.m. First Aid Class.
THURSDAY, June 27th.—
1.30 p.m. Banding Practice.
FRIDAY, June 28th.—
1.30 p.m. Squad and Stretcher Drill.
NO. 5 V.A.D.
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No claims will be recognised after the Goods have left the Steamer or Godown.

All chaffed and damaged Cargo will be landed into the Company's Godown, where they will be examined on 27th June, 1918, at 10 A.M.

No Cargo will be recognised if claimed after the 8th July, 1918.

T. DAIGO,
Manager.

Foreman, June 12, 1918.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

**FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG &
SINGAPORE.**

THE Steamship
"TEESTA"

Having arrived from the above Ports,
Consignees of Cargo by her are notified
that all Goods are being landed at their
risk into the hazardous and/or extra
hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong
and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co.
Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves
delivery may be obtained.

Goods
will be subject to rent. 24th June.

All broken, chafed and damaged pack-
ages are to be left in the Godowns,
where they will be examined by Messrs.
Goddard and Douglas on 25th June,
at 10 a.m.

Against the Steamer must be
presented in writing within 10 days
after arrival of Steamer, otherwise they
will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by
the undersigned in any case whatever.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.
Agents.
Hongkong, June 21, 1915. 537

ORIENTAL AFRICAN LINE.

FROM HONGKONG: PROPOSED MAILING. FROM COLONBO:
Connecting with.

EXCELLENT ACCOMMODATION FOR 1ST AND 2ND CLASS PASSENGERS.

ORIENTAL AFRICAN LINE.

Regular Direct Service from JAPAN, CHINA and STRAITS to BEIRA
DELAGOA BAY, DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPT
TOWN, calling at MAURITIUS en route and affording the Quickest Freight
Transport from the ORIENT to SOUTH AFRICA.

For dates of departure, Rates of Freight, apply to:
THE BANK LINE LIMITED
MANAGING AGENTS.

"ELLERMAN" LINE.
(Ellerman & Bucknall Steamship Co. Ltd.)

JAPAN, CHINA AND STRAITS
TO
UNITED KINGDOM & CONTINENT.

FOR PARTICULARS OF SAILINGS SHIPPERS ARE
REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE UNDERSIGNED

Shippers proceed via Suez/Canal or Cape of Good Hope at Owners' option.
Subject to change without notice.

THE BANK LINE LTD.
Sole Agents

(Ellerman & Bucknall Steamship Co. Ltd.)

**JAPAN, CHINA AND STRAITS
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THE BANK LINE LTD.
SINGAPORE.

